art will be one of the best that has taken place. The number of objects received amount to nearly 1,100: there will be more large pictures than in former exhibitions.

Correspondence.

DRIPS IN LEAD GUTTERS.

Sir,—I am now making out a plumber's specification for a mansion, and come to the consideration of the drips in the gutters. The owner prudently keeps no more servants than can be well employed; therefore I propose the gutters should hold the snow till it dissolves: the only difficulty in doing this is, the drips. I ask the assistance of some of your ingenious readers to do away with the barbarous system of drips to gutters. If the edges of the two pieces of lead were doubled together on a level bottom, could they not be united by some elastic substance under the head to allow for expansion and contraction, or else some waterproof socket to work in this would be a great improvement in building?—I am, Sir, &c.

G. P.

Miscellanea.

The Model Lodging-Houses in St. Pancras.—A correspondent who first bears witness to the value of such an establishment, says, "I went with the full expectation of being able to add to my stock of knowledge, in seeing some efficient mode of ventilation at work, or, at the very least, to have seen a provision made to extract, or let off, the vitiated air from the several rooms; my disappointment and regret was great, when I found, on the floors giving three rooms to a family, one of those rooms (throughout) measuring about 12 feet by 9 feet, did not possess even a common fireplace for the escape of vitiated air; the only opening I could see, when the door and window were closed, was an aperture about 8½ inches by 2½ inches, into the living room. Now, as the design of separate rooms is to part parents from children, it is not too much to suppose, that four or five children at least may be lodged in the room I have described, and will consequently be exposed to all the serious evils attendant on the breathing of impure air. I, therefore, through the medium of your excellent journal, beg to call the attention of the directors of the association to the matter, so that in any future erection, this very material point may have an equal consideration with those which have already been attended to, in providing a good supply of water, good drainage, and lighting.

Electro-telegraphic Progress.—An important invention, lately made by an individual at Birkenhead, has been purchased, it is said, by Messrs. Brett and Little, for their telegraph. It consists of a sponge saturated with some salt, in the cells, instead of acid, condensing the vapour of the atmosphere, and continuing, it is said, for an almost indefinite time in unimpaired action.—From New York to New Orleans a continuous line of telegraph is now almost completed, and, even with the few gaps not yet filled up, intelligence can be conveyed from the one extremity to the other—a length little short of 2,000 miles—within a few hours.—The experiment of crossing the Hudson, from Jersey to New York, by telegraph wires, encased with gutta percha, and laid on the bed of the river, has been completely successful.

"The principal Gothic Edifices of Europe," by Gustave Simonau (Brussels). The work consists of twenty-four large lithographic prints, each 29 inches by 18 inches, exclusive of margin, representing the most important edifices of its class in Belgium, France, Germany, and England. The artist has drawn the whole with remarkable accuracy from the actual sites, and imbued them with artistic ability. The work occupied twelve years in execution, under the patronage of the Belgian Government, and embodied the features of the most celebrated churches, cathedrals, and town-halls, on a larger scale than any existing publication. They are highly important to the architect, for the truthfulness of the details united to the general elevation of these magnificent mediæval architectural structures.

New Congregational Church, Kentish Town.—The locality in which this edifice is placed is contiguous to the Kentish Town-road, near to the "ancient" Castle Tavern, which will in a few weeks be pulled down to give place to modern improvements. The plan of the church is a parallelogram, about 100 feet by 60 feet, divided into nave and aisles, ministers' and deacons' vestries, an entrance porch, and circular staircases of slate in the turrets at west-end, for access to a west gallery. Accommodation is provided for 900 persons in open pewing, with reclining backs. Octagonal pillars, surmounted by arches, carry the clerestory. The roof over is simple. The dimension to the ridge, from floor, is 50 feet. Aisles are in unison. All the windows are traceried; the west window is 20 feet high, and the east window, which is circular, is 12 feet in diameter. The whole are filled with stained glass, from Mr. Goslett's manufactory, Soho-square. The organ-case, communion-pew, pulpit, and font, form one group at the east end. The floor is formed of blue and red tiles, on a bed of concrete. The exterior is covered with Kentish rag-stone, with Bath stone dressings. The total cost is expected to be about 5,200*l*. The works were commenced October, 1847, and the church was dedicated last Wednesday, August 16th, 1848. Mr. Henry Hodge was the architect, and Trego the contractor.

Cologne Cathedral.—The *Times*' correspondent, in describing the recent festival at Cologne, on the 600th anniversary of the commencement of the cathedral, says:—"The portion of the edifice added since 1842 is soon described. The choir and the tower have been united on the south by carrying up the stonework to the point where the light shafts are to spring from the plain square buttresses; the three portals on this side are nearly completed, and the nave is so far finished that, with a temporary roof, it can be used for divine worship. It is in this south side that the stained glass windows presented by the King of Bavaria are placed. On the north side nearly the same amount of plain work has been finished, but on both all the most expensive labour has yet to be bestowed, in the elaborate carvings and tracery of the pinnacles and shafts, in which the modern workmen are to imitate and reproduce the triumphs of their ancestors. The old stonework, dark and worn to roughness by time, contrasts strongly with the smooth white masonry of yesterday: in form, of course, the ancient plan has been rigidly adhered to. Time will harmonise the colour, but at present the effect is harsh. The carved work on the front of the south tower is so decayed that large patches of grass are actually growing in the roses and fretted ornaments above the portal: the tracery looks as if it would turn to dust with a touch. When the eye passes from it to the fresh solid masonry, the text that condemns 'the new piece on the old garment' occurs involuntarily to the mind." And in a subsequent communication he says of the new windows to which we have before alluded:—"They are certainly a princely gift; all the skill of the *ateliers* of Munich has been lavished upon them; good drawing and perspective, which the ancient specimens of the art never possess, are united to a depth and richness of colour which the old masters have not surpassed, though in some particular tints they may have equalled them." "The windows have occupied four years in preparation, and have only been fixed within the last month. The antiquary will perhaps prefer the quaint forms and stiff outlines of the ancient style; but standing between the north and south windows of the Cathedral of Cologne, an artist would give the palm to the modern masters; the ancient work looks meagre and poor beside the new. The old artists produced coloured windows; the moderns create transparent paintings." And with all respect for the writer, the old artists in this did right.

Size in Colour.—A correspondent remarks,—I am now writing out a specification for plasterers' work, and upon writing that the size used shall be sweet, it struck me that the next generation will probably laugh at our simplicity for using in our dwellings a disagreeable animal substance to fix our colours. Surely some of your scientific chemical readers could suggest something better than this for the purpose.

Projected Works.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 30th August for the whole or any portion of the different works required in the erection of the new church at Bank Foot, Bradford; by 4th September, for the erection of a new municipal hall at Chesterfield; by 5th, for several works required to be done at the workhouse in Gray's Inn-lane; by 14th, for alterations and additions to a house at Paddington; by 17th, for 3,245 feet of sewers in St. Mary's, Islington; by 30th, for executing the whole work connected with the erection of the Gretna station-house of the Glasgow, Dumfries, and Carlisle Railway; and by 31st, for 200 goods trucks, and 200 sets of wrought-iron wheels and axles, for the Eastern Counties Railway.

Competition.—Extension of time to 2nd October has been advertised for lodging the plans for the Leicester Cemetery, and an increase of price to 30*l*. on the purchase of plans, has been announced.

New White Paint.—Our correspondent (Sir J. W. S. G.) will find, on reference to our impression of the 11th March, that we merely recorded the announcement of the discoverer in such a way as to lead to further inquiry or experiment. The idea having been suggested in The Builder, our correspondent himself is just one of those from whom we hope to hear something practical on the merits. As to zinc oxide, very different opinions seem to prevail: it has been tried along with white lead too, but unsuccessfully—better have tried it united with antimony itself, if either of these separately be objectionable, from electrical or other causes. Scaling off, if we mistake not, was alleged against zinc. Some personal knowledge of chemistry is requisite to the mere preparation even though instruction were offered, but the oxides of zinc and antimony can readily be prepared by any operative chemist for experiment.

Piracy of Manufacturer's Designs.—M'Crea, the plaintiff in a case recently decided by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Knight Bruce, had exhibited a pattern in damask to the defendant, Holdsworth (both of Halifax), and the latter copied it, in ignorance of the fact that it had been protected by registration, and proceeded to manufacture from it. An injunction having been granted, the defendant appeared and pleaded "ignorance," which the Vice-Chancellor told him could not be listened to, as he knew perfectly that it was another man's design. The defendant also pleaded a right to manufacture, though not to sell—an odd sort of discovery, the judge remarked. Defendant's counsel thereupon undertook to destroy the pattern papers, stamped cards, &c., and to pay all costs, the injunction still continuing in force in case of any breach, to which the newly discovered "right to manufacture" might in future lead.

Combustion of Water with Fuel.—The following memorandum was found among Sir S. Bentham's papers:—"In regard to all or most of these different kinds of fuel [namely, coal, wood, peat, and oil], there seems some reason to believe that an addition of water may be made to increase the quantity of heat produced by their combustion. Chemical analysis appears, in some respects, to confirm the experience of persons of various classes. The practice of throwing water on coals is general amongst blacksmiths; the wetting of ashes on throwing them on a coal fire is the usual practice of housewives; mixing green wood with dry, and wet clay with small coal, has been found advantageous in horticultural furnaces." Mr. Strutt, of Derby, it is said, nearly twenty years ago, at Sir Samuel's request, caused a trial to be made, in a common steam-engine fireplace, of the effect of placing a trough of water in the ashpit; in this way, however, no addition of heat was perceptible, but a very decided advantage in preserving the fire-bars from rapid destruction. In some correspondence on the subject, it appears that Mr. Sylvester conceived, that as much heat would be lost in decomposing water, as was likely to be gained by burning the oxygen and hydrogen set at liberty,—an idea much in accordance with a suggestion of our own, with reference to a recent French invention, in which electricity was brought to bear on water for its decomposition while passing along the furnace bars of a locomotive engine of a peculiar construction.

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